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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MAN SENTENCED TO 40 YEARS IN PRISON FOR AGGRAVATED ASSAULT**

January 16, 2015

GALVESTON - On Thursday, January 15, 2015, a jury convicted Brian Darnell Johnson, Jr. of the felony offense of Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Today, the jury sentenced Johnson to 40 years in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

The defendant was accused of shooting his half-brother in the buttocks. Witnesses at trial said the defendant and victim were hanging out with friends at Obie's bar in Texas City. An argument took place between the defendant and another man. The victim attempted to diffuse the argument, and a fist fight began between the victim and the defendant. The police were called. Witnesses testified that the defendant told the victim and others that they had five minutes to leave or he would start shooting. The defendant shot the victim in the buttocks as the victim walked away. Several more shots were fired. One bullet hit a car, and a bullet or shrapnel struck a bystander.

Texas City police officers testified that two hours after the shooting they attempted to stop a male and a female running from their police unit. The male ran into a house and the female spoke with the officers. She informed the police that she had picked the defendant up and that he had told her he had gotten into something and people were looking for him. The female allowed the police to search her car, and a gun was located that matched the description of the gun used in the shooting.

Johnson was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys T. Philip Washington and Matthew Shawhan in the 405<sup>th</sup> District Court, with Judge Michelle Slaughter presiding, and Lynette Briggs representing the defendant.

The jury deliberated a little over an hour before finding the defendant Guilty. Today, Prosecutors Washington and Shawhan presented evidence of convictions for four prior burglaries of a habitation and an unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. The jury sentenced the defendant to 40 years in prison.

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